

FIRED BY RADAR

Cannons Reduce Hail Loss In Soviet Union

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Imagine a network of 70 millimeter cannons directed by radar that fire gunpowder shells impregnated with silver iodide.

This Soviet style of ice nuclei seeding has decreased hail damage by about 70 per cent.

Successful hail modification is one way Soviet scientists are saving rubles by changing the weather.

Dr. B. I. Kiziriya, chief of the weather modification department of the Soviet Hydrometeorological Service, Moscow, said in an interview yesterday that a commercial full-scale operation reducing hailstones to small ice particles has been in use since 1967.

Kiziriya is one of six members of a U.S.S.R. weather modification delegation making a month-long tour of the United States. The group met at the University of Arizona with Drs. A. Richard Kassander, Louis J. Battan and James E. McDonald,

all of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics.

Attempts to increase rainfall in the arid areas east of the Caspian Sea have been "encouraging," said Kiziriya. Precipitation increases up to 30 per cent have been achieved in some areas. He added, though, that "overall, we hope for improvement in rainmaking — about the same as our American colleagues."

Clearing the clouds and fog from weather-crippled airports has kept some of them operating year-around in the U.S.S.R. Cloud seeding apparatus is being used at about 10 airports in the Soviet Union, said Kiziriya.

The scientists particularly have been interested, he said, in the laboratory projects being carried out in the United States. He especially praised the "good, high quality equipment" and the use of computers in weather modification.